

**PRESENTATION OF AND AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

The following listing is a presentation of the claims that were allowed in an Office Action mailed June 16, 2004. Some of the claims were amended in a response to the June 16, 2004 Office Action. An Advisory Action mailed November 10, 2004 indicated that none of the claim amendments were entered. With the exception of claims 31-33, the claims in the following listing are therefore presented without markings because the claims in the listing are believed to be identical to the claims as they are currently pending before the Patent and Trademark Office, which is to say that the claims in the listing are believed to be identical to the allowed claims.

Claim 31 is presented with markings because the June 16, 2004 Office Action objected to, rather than allowed, claim 31. The same Office Action rejected claims 32 and 33. In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.121(c), please amend claim 31 as indicated in marked-up form below, where additions are underlined and deletions are struck through. Claims 32 and 33 are canceled herein.

Claim 1. (Original) A steel framework comprising:

a steel column having a first flange, a second flange, and a web therebetween;  
a steel beam having a lower flange, an upper flange, and a web therebetween;  
the beam being welded orthogonal to the first flange of the column; and  
a separation of the beam flange from the beam web equal to or greater than 3.0 times the beam flange thickness in length in the beam positioned adjacent to the lower flange of the beam and adjacent to the first flange of the column.

Claim 2. (Original) A steel framework comprising:

a steel column having a first flange, a second flange, and a web therebetween;  
a steel beam having a first flange, a second flange, and a web therebetween;

the beam being welded orthogonal to the first flange of the column;  
a separation of the beam flange from the beam web equal to or greater than 3.0 times the beam flange thickness in length in the beam positioned adjacent to the first flange of the beam and adjacent to the first flange of the column; and  
a separation of the beam flange from the beam web equal to or greater than 3.0 times the beam flange thickness in length in the beam positioned adjacent to the second flange of the beam and adjacent to the first flange of the column.

Claim 3. (Previously Presented) A steel framework comprising:  
a steel column having a first flange, a second flange, and a web therebetween;  
a steel beam having a lower flange, an upper flange, and a web therebetween;  
the beam being welded orthogonal to the first flange of the column; and  
a separation of the beam flange from the beam web equal to or greater than 3.0 times the beam flange thickness in length in the beam positioned adjacent to the lower flange of the beam and adjacent to the first flange of the column; and  
the beam web and beam flange separation comprises a slot that is tapered from a first relatively narrow slot width near the column and beam interface to a second relatively wide slot width near the opposite end of the slot and wider than the first slot width.

Claim 4. (Previously Presented) The framework of claims 1 or 2 wherein the end of the slot away from the column terminates with a circular radius equal to one half the width of the end of the slot.

Claim 5. (Canceled)

Claim 6. (Previously Presented) A steel framework comprising:

a steel column having a first flange, a second flange, and a web therebetween;

a steel beam having a first flange, a second flange, and a web therebetween;

the beam being welded orthogonal to the first flange of the column;

a separation of the beam flange from the beam web equal to or greater than 3.0 times the beam flange thickness in length in the beam positioned adjacent to the first flange of the beam and adjacent to the first flange of the column;

a separation of the beam flange from the beam web equal to or greater than 3.0 times the beam flange thickness in length in the beam positioned adjacent to the second flange of the beam and adjacent to the first flange of the column; and

the beam web and beam flange separation comprises a slot that is tapered from a first relatively narrow slot width near the column and beam interface to a second relatively wide slot width near the opposite end of the slot and wider than the first slot width.

Claim 7. (Previously Presented) A steel framework comprising:

a steel column having a first flange, a second flange, and a web therebetween;

a steel beam including at least one weld access hole having a lower flange, an upper flange, and a web therebetween;

the beam flanges being welded orthogonal to the first flange of the column and the beam web welded to the first flange of the column; and

a separation of the beam flange from the beam web equal to or greater than 2.0 times the beam flange thickness in length in the beam positioned adjacent to the lower flange of the beam and adjacent to the first flange of the column.

Claim 8. (Previously Presented) A steel framework comprising:

a steel column having a first flange, a second flange, and a web therebetween;

a steel beam including at least one weld access hole having a lower flange, an upper flange, and a web therebetween;

the beam flanges being welded orthogonal to the first flange of the column;

the beam web connected to the first flange of the column by means of bolts; and

a separation of the beam flange from the beam web equal to or greater than 2.0 times the beam flange thickness in length in the beam positioned adjacent to the lower flange of the beam and adjacent to the first flange of the column.

Claim 9. (Previously Presented) A steel framework comprising:

a steel column having a first flange, a second flange, and a web therebetween;

a steel beam including at least one weld access hole having a first flange, a second flange, and a web therebetween;

the beam flanges being welded orthogonal to the first flange of the column and the beam web welded to the first flange of the column; and

a separation of the beam flange from the beam web equal to or greater than 2.0 times the beam flange thickness in length in the beam positioned adjacent to the first flange of the beam and adjacent to the first flange of the column; and

a separation of the beam flange from the beam web equal to or greater than 2.0 times the beam flange thickness in length in the beam positioned adjacent to the second flange of the beam and adjacent to the first flange of the column.

Claim 10. (Previously Presented) A steel framework comprising:

a steel column having a first flange, a second flange, and a web therebetween;

a steel beam including at least one weld access hole having a first flange, a second flange, and a web therebetween;

the beam flanges being welded orthogonal to the first flange of the column;

the beam web connected to the first flange of the column by means of bolts;

a separation of the beam flange from the beam web equal to or greater than 2.0 times the beam flange thickness in length in the beam positioned adjacent to the first flange of the beam and adjacent to the first flange of the column; and

a separation of the beam flange from the beam web equal to or greater than 2.0 times the beam flange thickness in length in the beam positioned adjacent to the second flange of the beam and adjacent to the first flange of the column.

Claim 11. (Previously Presented) The steel framework of any of claims 7, 8, 9 and 10 wherein:

the separation of the beam flange from the beam web comprises a slot that is tapered from a first relatively narrow slot width near the column and beam interface to a second relatively wide slot width near the opposite end of the slot and wider than the first slot width.

Claim 12. (Previously Presented) The steel framework of any of claims 7, 8, 9 and 10 wherein:

the end most distal from the column of at least one slot terminates with a circular radius equal to one-half the width of the slot at a distance equal to one radius from the end of the slot.

Claim 13. (Previously Presented) A steel framework comprising:

a steel column having a first flange, a second flange, and a web therebetween;

a steel beam having a lower flange, an upper flange, and a web therebetween;

the beam flanges being welded orthogonal to the first flange of the column;

the beam web welded to a shear plate;

the shear plate welded to the first flange of the column; and

a separation of the column web from the first flange of the column positioned adjacent said first flange having a length equal to or greater than 2.0 times the beam flange thickness.

Claim 14. (Previously Presented) A steel framework comprising:

a steel column having a first flange, a second flange, and a web therebetween;

a steel beam having a lower flange, an upper flange, and a web therebetween;

the beam flanges being welded orthogonal to the first flange of the column;

the beam web welded to a shear plate;

the shear plate bolted to the first flange of the column; and

a separation of the column web from the first flange of the column positioned adjacent said first flange having a length equal to or greater than 2.0 times the beam flange thickness.

Claim 15. (Previously Presented) A steel framework comprising:

a steel column having a first flange, a second flange, and a web therebetween;

a steel beam having a lower flange, an upper flange, and a web therebetween;

the beam flanges being welded orthogonal to the first flange of the column;

the beam web bolted to a shear plate;

the shear plate welded to the first flange of the column; and

a separation of the column web from the first flange of the column positioned adjacent said first flange having a length equal to or greater than 2.0 times the beam flange thickness.

Claim 16. (Previously Presented) A steel framework comprising:

a steel column having a first flange, a second flange, and a web therebetween;

a steel beam having a lower flange, an upper flange, and a web therebetween;

the beam flanges being welded orthogonal to the first flange of the column;

the beam web bolted to a shear plate;

the shear plate bolted to the first flange of the column; and

a separation of the column web from the first flange of the column positioned adjacent said first flange having a length equal to or greater than 2.0 times the beam flange thickness.

Claim 17. (Previously Presented) A steel framework comprising:

a steel column having a first flange, a second flange, and a web therebetween;

a steel beam including at least one weld access hole having a first flange, a second flange,

and a web therebetween;

the beam flanges being welded orthogonal to the first flange of the column;

the beam web welded to the first flange of the column;  
at least one slot in the beam web positioned adjacent to the first flange of the beam and  
the first flange of the column; and  
a slot in the column web positioned adjacent to the first flange of the column and the  
beam flange nearest said at least one slot in the beam web.

Claim 18. (Previously Presented) A steel framework comprising:  
a steel column having a first flange, a second flange, and a web therebetween;  
a steel beam including at least one weld access hole having a first flange, a second flange,  
and a web therebetween;  
the beam flanges being welded orthogonal to the first flange of the column;  
the beam web connected to the first flange of the column by means of bolts;  
at least one slot in the beam web positioned adjacent to the first flange of the beam and  
the first flange of the column; and  
a slot in the column web positioned adjacent to the first flange of the column and the  
beam flange nearest said at least one slot in the beam web.

Claim 19. (Previously Presented) A steel framework comprising:  
a steel column having a first flange, a second flange, and a web therebetween;  
a steel beam including at least one weld access hole having a first flange, a second flange,  
and a web therebetween;  
the beam flanges being welded orthogonal to the first flange of the column;  
the beam web welded to the first flange of the column;

a first slot in the beam web positioned adjacent to the first flange of the beam and the first flange of the column; and

a second slot in the beam web positioned adjacent to the second flange of the beam and the first flange of the column.

Claim 20. (Previously Presented) A steel framework comprising:

a steel column having a first flange, a second flange, and a web therebetween;

a steel beam including at least one weld access hole having a first flange, a second flange, and a web therebetween;

the beam flanges being welded orthogonal to the first flange of the column;

the beam web connected to the first flange of the column by means of bolts;

a first slot in the beam web positioned adjacent to the first flange of the beam and the first flange of the column; and

a second slot in the beam web positioned adjacent to the second flange of the beam and the first flange of the column.

Claim 21. (Previously Presented) A steel framework comprising:

a steel column having a first flange, a second flange, and a web therebetween;

a steel beam having a first flange, a second flange, and a web therebetween;

the beam flanges being welded orthogonal to the first flange of the column;

the beam web welded to the first flange of the column;

a first slot in the beam web positioned adjacent to the first flange of the beam and the first flange of the column;

a second slot in the beam web positioned adjacent to the second flange of the beam and the first flange of the column; and

a slot in the column web positioned adjacent to the first flange of the column and the beam flange nearest to the first slot in the beam web.

Claim 22. (Previously Presented) A steel framework comprising:

a steel column having a first flange, a second flange, and a web therebetween;

a steel beam including at least one weld access hole having a first flange, a second flange, and a web therebetween;

the beam flanges being welded orthogonal to the first flange of the column;

the beam web connected to the first flange of the column by means of bolts;

a first slot in the beam web positioned adjacent to the first flange of the beam and the first flange of the column;

a second slot in the beam web positioned adjacent to the second flange of the beam and the first flange of the column; and

a slot in the column web positioned adjacent to the first flange of the column and the beam flange nearest to the first slot in the beam web.

Claim 23. (Previously Presented) A steel framework comprising:

a steel column having a first flange, a second flange, and a web therebetween;

a steel beam including at least one weld access hole having a lower flange, an upper flange, and a web therebetween;

the beam flanges being welded orthogonal to the first flange of the column;

the beam web welded to the first flange of the column;  
a slot in the beam web positioned adjacent to the lower flange of the beam and the first flange of the column; and  
a continuity plate extending between the first and second column flanges and being coplanar with a beam flange.

Claim 24. (Previously Presented) A steel framework comprising:  
a steel column having a first flange, a second flange, and a web therebetween;  
a steel beam including at least one weld access hole having a lower flange, an upper flange, and a web therebetween;  
the beam flanges being welded orthogonal to the first flange of the column;  
the beam web connected to the first flange of the column by means of bolts;  
a slot in the beam web positioned adjacent to the lower flange of the beam and the first flange of the column; and  
a continuity plate extending between the first and second column flanges and being coplanar with a beam flange.

Claim 25. (Previously Presented) A steel framework comprising:  
a steel column having a first flange, a second flange, and a web therebetween;  
a steel beam having a lower flange, an upper flange, and a web therebetween;  
the beam flanges being welded orthogonal to the first flange of the column;  
the beam web welded to the first flange of the column;

a slot in the beam web positioned adjacent to the first flange of the beam and the first flange of the column;

a slot in the column web positioned adjacent to the first flange of the column and the first flange of the beam; and

a continuity plate extending between the first and second column flanges and being coplanar with a beam flange.

Claim 26. (Previously Presented) A steel framework comprising:

a steel column having a first flange, a second flange, and a web therebetween;

a steel beam having a lower flange, an upper flange, and a web therebetween;

the beam flanges being welded orthogonal to the first flange of the column;

the beam web connected to the first flange of the column by means of bolts;

a slot in the beam web positioned adjacent to the first flange of the beam and the first flange of the column;

a slot in the column web positioned adjacent to the first flange of the column and the first flange of the beam; and

a continuity plate extending between the first and second column flanges and being coplanar with a beam flange.

Claim 27. (Previously Presented) A steel framework comprising:

a steel column having a first flange, a second flange, and a web therebetween;

a steel beam including at least one weld access hole having a first flange, a second flange, and a web therebetween;

the beam flanges being welded orthogonal to the first flange of the column;  
the beam web welded to the first flange of the column;  
a first slot in the beam web positioned adjacent to the first flange of the beam and the first flange of the column;  
a second slot in the beam web positioned adjacent to the second flange of the beam and the first flange of the column; and  
a continuity plate extending between the first and second column flanges and being coplanar with a beam flange.

Claim 28. (Previously Presented) A steel framework comprising:  
a steel column having a first flange, a second flange, and a web therebetween;  
a steel beam including at least one weld access hole having a first flange, a second flange, and a web therebetween;  
the beam flanges being welded orthogonal to the first flange of the column;  
the beam web connected to the first flange of the column by means of bolts;  
a first slot in the beam web positioned adjacent to the first flange of the beam and the first flange of the column;  
a second slot in the beam web positioned adjacent to the second flange of the beam and the first flange of the column; and  
a continuity plate extending between the first and second column flanges and being coplanar with a beam flange.

Claim 29. (Previously Presented) A steel framework comprising:

a steel column having a first flange, a second flange, and a web therebetween;

a steel beam including at least one weld access hole having a lower flange, an upper flange, a web therebetween, and having a longitudinal axis;

the beam flanges being welded orthogonal to the first flange of the column;

the beam web welded to the first flange of the column;

a slot in the beam web positioned adjacent to the lower flange of the beam and the first flange of the column; and

a shear plate welded to the beam perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of the beam extending between the upper and lower beam flanges.

Claim 30. (Previously Presented) A steel framework comprising:

a steel column having a first flange, a second flange, and a web therebetween;

a steel beam including at least one weld access hole having a lower flange, an upper flange, a web therebetween, and having a longitudinal axis;

the beam flanges being welded orthogonal to the first flange of the column;

the beam web connected to the first flange of the column by means of bolts;

a slot in the beam web positioned adjacent to the lower flange of the beam and the first flange of the column; and

a shear plate welded to the beam perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of the beam extending between the upper and lower beam flanges.

Claim 31. (Currently Amended) The steel framework of claim 1 ~~further including~~ wherein:

the separation of the beam flange from the beam web comprises a slot in the beam web,  
the slot in the beam web having a width, a thickness and a length dimension;  
the thickness of the slot in the beam web being parallel to and equal to the thickness of  
the beam web;  
the width of the slot in the beam web being tapered from a first width at a first end near  
the first column flange to a second width at a second end;  
each end of the slot being a round hole having a minimum diameter equal to or greater  
than the width of the slot.

Claims 32-33. (Canceled)

Claim 34. (Previously Presented) A steel framework comprising:  
a steel column having a first flange, a second flange, and a web therebetween;  
a steel beam including at least one weld access hole having a lower flange, an upper  
flange, and a web therebetween;  
the beam flanges and web being welded orthogonal to the first flange of the column;  
a slot formed in the beam having a first end, a second end, and a length dimension  
extending between said slot first end and said slot second end;  
said slot is formed with the slot first end closer to the first flange of the column than is  
the slot second end;  
said slot is formed in the beam web closer to the upper beam flange than to the lower  
beam flange.

Claim 35. (Previously Presented) A steel framework comprising:

a steel column having a first flange, a second flange, and a web therebetween;

a steel beam including at least one weld access hole having a lower flange, an upper flange, and a web therebetween;

the beam flanges being welded orthogonal to the first flange of the column;

the beam web connected to the first flange of the column by means of bolts;

a slot formed in the beam having a first end, a second end, and a length dimension extending between said slot first end and said slot second end;

said slot is formed with the slot first end closer to the first flange of the column than is the slot second end;

said slot is formed in the beam web closer to the upper beam flange than to the lower beam flange.

Claim 36. (Previously Presented) A steel framework comprising:

a steel column having a first flange, a second flange, and a web therebetween;

a steel beam including at least one weld access hole having a lower flange, an upper flange, and a web therebetween;

the beam flanges being welded orthogonal to the first flange of the column;

the beam web welded to the first flange of the column;

a slot formed in the beam web adjacent to the lower flange of the beam and separated by a predetermined distance from the first flange of the column.

Claim 37. (Previously Presented) A steel framework comprising:

a steel column having a first flange, a second flange, and a web therebetween;

a steel beam including at least one weld access hole having a lower flange, an upper flange, and a web therebetween;

the beam flanges being welded orthogonal to the first flange of the column;

the beam web connected to the first flange of the column by means of bolts;

a slot formed in the beam web adjacent to the lower flange of the beam and separated by a predetermined distance from the first flange of the column.

**Claim 38. (Previously Presented) A steel framework comprising:**

a steel column having a first flange, a second flange, and a web therebetween;

a steel beam having a first flange, a second flange, and a web therebetween;

the beam flanges being welded orthogonal to the first flange of the column;

a slot formed in the beam web adjacent to the first flange of the beam and to the first flange of the column;

a slot formed in the column web adjacent to the first flange of the column and to the first flange of the beam.

**Claim 39. (Previously Presented) A steel framework comprising:**

a steel column having a first flange, a second flange, and a web therebetween;

a steel beam including at least one weld access hole having a first flange, a second flange, and a web therebetween;

the beam flanges being welded orthogonal to the first flange of the column;

the beam web welded to the first flange of the column;

a first slot penetrating the beam web formed adjacent to the first flange of the beam and to the first flange of the column; and

a second slot penetrating the beam web formed adjacent to the second flange of the beam but not adjacent to the first flange of the column.

**Claim 40. (Previously Presented) A steel framework comprising:**

a steel column having a first flange, a second flange, and a web therebetween;

a steel beam including at least one weld access hole having a first flange, a second flange, and a web therebetween;

the beam flanges being welded orthogonal to the first flange of the column;

the beam web connected to the first flange of the column by means of bolts;

a first slot penetrating the beam web formed adjacent to the first flange of the beam and to the first flange of the column; and

a second slot penetrating the beam web formed adjacent to the second flange of the beam but not adjacent to the first flange of the column.

**Claim 41. (Previously Presented) A steel framework comprising:**

a steel column having a first flange, a second flange, and a web therebetween;

a steel beam including at least one weld access hole having a first flange, a second flange, and a web therebetween;

the beam flanges being welded orthogonal to the first flange of the column;

the beam web welded to the first flange of the column;

a first slot formed in the beam web adjacent to the first flange of the beam but not adjacent to the first flange of the column;

a second slot formed in the beam web adjacent to the second flange of the beam and in the proximity of but not adjacent to the first flange of the column; and

a continuity plate extending between the first column flange and the second column flange and being coplanar with a beam flange.

Claim 42. (Previously Presented) A steel framework comprising:

a steel column having a first flange, a second flange, and a web therebetween;

a steel beam including at least one weld access hole having a first flange, a second flange, and a web therebetween;

the beam flanges being welded orthogonal to the first flange of the column;

the beam web connected to the first flange of the column by means of bolts;

a first slot formed in the beam web adjacent to the first flange of the beam but not adjacent to the first flange of the column;

a second slot formed in the beam web adjacent to the second flange of the beam and in the proximity of but not adjacent to the first flange of the column; and

a continuity plate extending between the first column flange and the second column flange and being coplanar with a beam flange.

Claim 43. (Previously Presented) A steel framework comprising:

a steel column having a first flange, a second flange, and a web therebetween;

a steel beam including at least one weld access hole having a lower flange, an upper flange, and a web therebetween;

the beam flanges being welded orthogonal to the first flange of the column;

the beam web welded to the first flange of the column;

a slot formed in the beam web adjacent to the lower flange of the beam but not adjacent to the first flange of the column; and

a shear plate having a length, height and width dimension welded on the web of said beam and extending between the lower beam flange and the upper beam flange and having the width dimension extending perpendicular to the height dimension and along the web of the beam.

Claim 44. (Previously Presented) A steel framework comprising:

a steel column having a first flange, a second flange, and a web therebetween;

a steel beam including at least one weld access hole having a lower flange, an upper flange, and a web therebetween;

the beam flanges being welded orthogonal to the first flange of the column;

the beam web connected to the first flange of the column by means of bolts;

a slot formed in the beam web adjacent to the lower flange of the beam but not adjacent to the first flange of the column; and

a shear plate having a length, height and width dimension welded on the web of said beam and extending between the lower beam flange and the upper beam flange and having the width dimension extending perpendicular to the height dimension and along the web of the beam.